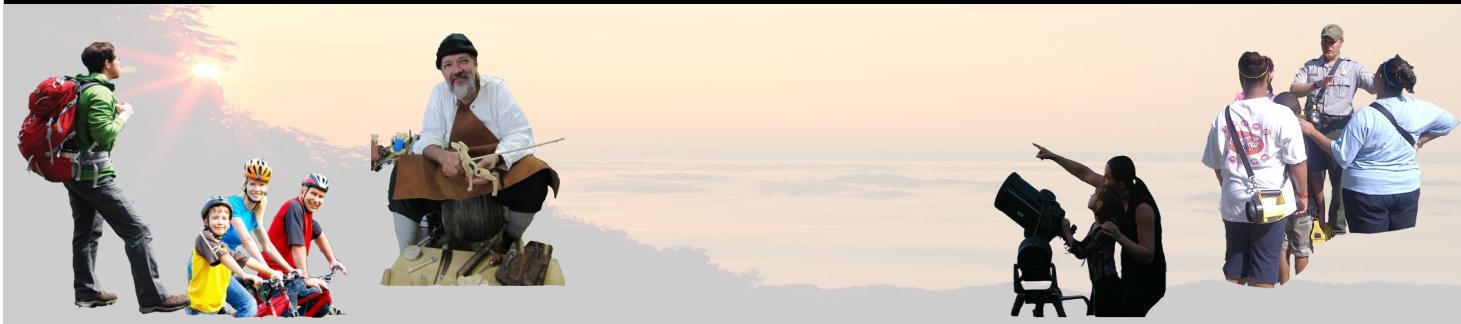


2015 Program Schedule

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Gap Cave

A two-hour adventure awaits as you explore Gap Cave with its majestic stalagmites, striking stalactites and shimmering flowstone. Step into the music room and listen for the whispers of a Civil War soldier. Catch a glimpse of a little brown bat or a cave salamander. **Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date.** Tour departs from the Daniel Boone parking area.

This tour involves a 1.5-mile walk; 183 steps must be negotiated within the cave. For the safety of all, no children under the age of five are permitted on the cave tour. Wearing of beach/flip flop sandals, crocs or high heeled dress shoes in the cave is not allowed.

Adults - \$8.00

Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$4.00

Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$4.00

Children five through twelve - \$4.00

April 19 - May 23 (No tours April 24 and 25)

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.

Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

May 24 - September 5

Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

September 6 - November 30

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.

Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Hensley Settlement

Visit historic Hensley Settlement for a nostalgic look into early 20th century Appalachia. Meander down fence lined lanes, peek into the blacksmith's shop, look into the springhouse or sit in the one room school. In 1903, Sherman Hensley and Willie Gibbons joined forces to establish a homestead on the mountaintop. Using hand tools to split chestnut logs, the settlers began to build homes. A thriving community soon emerged. The land, suitable for raising livestock and growing crops for liquid spirits, supported the community of twelve farmsteads for more than forty years. **Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date.** Tour departs from the park center.

Visitors must be able to walk through the settlement; comfortable clothing and shoes are necessary. Bring a light snack and drink for the tour. Only cash and credit cards only; no checks are allowed on-site.

Adults - \$12.00

Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$5.00

Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$5.00

Children five through twelve - \$5.00

May 17 - October 11 (No shuttle offered August 9)

Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday

Depart 12:30 p.m.; return 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Depart 9:00 a.m.; return 1:00 p.m.



Guided Hike of the Month

Cumberland Gap's 85 miles of trails provide plenty of opportunities for a hour long jaunt or an all day adventure. Whether a novice or aficionado, there's a trail for you!

March 21

Harlan Road Trail

This old trail leading from the saddle of the Gap to U.S. Hwy 988 was once part of the road to Harlan, Kentucky. The open understory along this moderate 2.3 mile trail provides great views into the forest providing ample opportunities to spot the colorful wild turkey, the dashing pileated woodpecker with its flaming crest and the ever vigilant white tailed deer. If you're a one way hiker, meet at the Sugar Run picnic area at 9:15 a.m., leave your car and we'll shuttle you to the Thomas Walker parking area where the hike begins.

Thomas Walker parking area at 10:00 a.m.

April 11

Wildflower Hike

With the coming of spring, Mother Nature spreads her colorful apron upon the earth. Dazzling yellow wood sorrel, stunning violet, liverwort and delicate pink lady slippers are but a few of the prism colored gems scattered along the landscape. Short easy to moderate hikes on trails around the campground will reveal these beauties.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 10:00 a.m.

May 2

Lewis Hollow to Gibson Gap Trail Loop

Classic karst features including a sinking stream, iron ore mining evidence and a mixed hardwood forest community in which buds and leaves will be popping make this 9.3 mile moderate to strenuous round trip hike perfect for an early spring outing.

Wilderness Road Campground picnic area at 9:00 a.m.

June 27

Shillalah Creek Road

Massive sandstone outcroppings, fabulous rhododendron groves and the refreshing water of Shillalah Falls will greet us during this 10 mile moderate to strenuous round trip hike.

Shillalah Creek Road at 9:00 a.m.

July 25

Sugar Run Trail

This 5 mile moderate to strenuous round trip hike to its intersection with the Ridge Trail leads through spectacular hemlock groves, along a lovely mountain stream and over several wooden bridges. As we bask in the shade of the hemlocks and revel in the coolness of the stream, we'll look for the distinctly colored yellow and black almond-scented millipede.

Sugar Run picnic area at 9:00 a.m.

August 15

Tri-State Peak

A favorite of locals, this 3 mile overall moderate round trip hike leads us to the 1900 foot high summit where we might even burst into song! For sure, we'll straddle Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. The route to the summit includes traversing the Object Lesson Road and Wilderness Road Trails along which we'll be immersed in the numerous rich chapters of the Gap's history: Native Americans, pioneers, Civil War soldiers and even Lewis and Clark.

Thomas Walker parking area at 9:00 a.m.

September 12

Rails to Trails Bicycle Ride

Ride this 8.5 mile crushed gravel multi use trail which follows the former corridor of an abandoned railroad line. Those wanting to ride but one way should drop their bikes at Wilderness Road State Park and then drive their vehicles to the Daniel Boone parking area where a 2:15 p.m. shuttle will deliver riders back to the starting point. Bike safety helmets are required.

Wilderness Road State Park at 3:00 p.m. where bicycle rental is available.

October 25th

White Rocks and Sand Cave

The White Rocks were a major landmark to weary travelers on their way to the Cumberland Gap. Journey with a ranger on this strenuous 9 mile round trip hike through lush forests with breathtaking views. See the many colors of Sand Cave.

Civic Park at 9:00 a.m.

November 7

Fitness Trail

Showcase your leashed four legged companion to park staff. This easy two mile round trip hike provides the perfect romp route. Treats will be waiting for you and your pup(s).

Visitor center parking area at 9:00 a.m.

First Thursday of Each Month Cumberland Mountain Photography Club

Join fellow photo enthusiasts for an evening of photography demonstrations, techniques and tips designed to capture that perfect photo!



Photographers of all ability levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visitor center at 6:30 p.m.

March 3 Archaeological Institute of America lecture

Veteran National Park Service archeologist Tom Des Jean shares his experiences exploring the long and interesting history of the Cumberland Gap area. Introduction and additional commentary will be given by park historian Martha Wiley.

McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture,
University of Tennessee campus at 7:30 p.m. Free.

March 5 Crow Full Moon Hike

Northern Native American tribes knew the March full moon as the Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter, or the Crust Moon, for the snow cover which becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full moon of winter. This 1.2 mile round trip hike will lead us into the historic Cumberland Gap.



Thomas Walker parking area at 6:30 p.m.

March 27 Meet and Greet

In this very informal setting, connect with Park Superintendent Sula Jacobs and the park team, especially with those employees who routinely are out in the field - many times deep in the backcountry. Keep asking your questions - from black bear to trail maintenance to park programs and we'll be there to answer them all.



Visitor center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



April 4 For the Birds

Birds galore flit throughout the park's mixed deciduous forest with numerous open and meadow areas and streams.

We'll stroll along the Boone Trail looking for the cardinal's splash of red, the "butter butt" of the yellow-rumped warbler and the bubblegum pink legs of the field sparrow.

Wilderness Road Campground entrance parking area at 9:00 a.m.

April 4 Full Pink Moon Hike

The herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring lending its name to this full moon. Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon and the Egg Moon. Among coastal tribes, it is known as the Full Fish Moon, for this is the season during which shad swim upstream to spawn. Perhaps during this 1.2 mile hike, we'll see the herb moss pink shining in the brilliance of the moon.

Thomas Walker parking area at 8:00 p.m.

April 24 and 25

Back the B.E.A.R.S.

Black bears once again roam the Southern Appalachians. Through hands on activities, exhibits, and presentations, learn how to “Be Educated and Responsible Stewards,” helping to protect this symbol of the wilds.



Visitor center grounds 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 15 and 16

Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering

The 9th Annual Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering will include bowed psaltry, bowed saw, claw hammer banjo, spoons and upright bass. Tap your feet to the invigorating rhythm as the *Wilderness Road Dulcimer Club* shares songs of long ago.

Classes begin each day at 10:00 a.m. at various sites throughout the Wilderness Road Campground. On Friday, a jam begins at 6:30 p.m. at the “gathering” site. On Saturday, a concert will be offered at 7:00 p.m. at the campground amphitheater.

May 23 - September 5

Saturday Night Campfires

See pages 7 - 8 for individual campfire descriptions.

June - August

Please Do Not Touch!

Always wanted to see just how heavy a cannonball is? Or wondered how a bear skin feels? On alternate Fridays throughout the summer, park staff will share stories and artifacts from the park museum collections.

Park visitor center on alternate Fridays beginning June 5th, 10 a.m. to noon. Last program is August 28th.

June 11, 12 & 13

Genealogy Jamboree

An estimated 44 million Americans can trace their ancestors to the migration through the Cumberland Gap. Learn how to find your forefathers through unique venues located on both sides of the nation’s first doorway to the west. Nationally renowned genealogical speakers, traditional crafts people and tradesmen will gather in the Towne of Cumberland Gap and at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park during this jamboree, now in its fifth year.

For additional information on workshop locations and times, connect with www.genealogyjamboree.us.

June 13

The Monuments’ Women:

Women Remember the History, but Make it Too!

One hundred years ago, the Daughters of the American Revolution left for us all a legacy of patriotic commemoration - the placement of monuments in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky along Daniel Boone’s trail. This day long event including a living history camp will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the placement of two monuments within the historic Cumberland Gap.



Keep tuned to www.nps.gov/cuga for additional details on the day’s events and times.

June 17

Pioneer Camp

Mingle with encamped pioneers who are chasing liberty and dodging death as they pursue their dreams of owning land in Kentucky.

Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the visitor center 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 20

Topographical Engineers - Civil War Mapmakers

During the War Between the States, topographical engineers invented new techniques for mapping the countryside in preparation for campaigns. Many finished maps expressed artistic flair in addition to military purpose. Meet several of these mapmakers as they showcase their skills.

Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the visitor center 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

July 4

On Guard in Cumberland Gap



Majestic Cumberland Gap might not have seen as much action during the American Civil War as Gettysburg or Vicksburg, but it was still seen as an important location by both North and South in terms of strategic planning. Hear for yourselves stories of how a war of nerves pivoted more on available supplies and flanking movements than on bombardments or bloody assaults.

Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the visitor center 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the
visitor center 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a day of commemoration as we salute the young men of the Job Corps. Speakers, an exhibit, and a special dedication will recognize these young men's contributions to the park that are often taken for granted. Keep tuned to www.nps.gov/cuga for additional details on the day's events.

Park Superintendent Sula Jacobs and the park team are again on hand to answer any questions you might have about your national park. We'll also share with you some great partnerships which we have with the nearby state parks.

Visitor center 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Defending the rocky Cumberland Gap during the Civil War wasn't easy, which is why US Army engineer William P. Craighill incorporated gabions in his design. Learn how these structures added to the fortification, making these long, narrow trenches what soldiers did.



Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the visitor center 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mingle with encamped pioneers who are chasing liberty and dodging death as they pursue their dreams of owning land in Kentucky.

Under the shade of the old oak tree in front of the visitor center 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As darkness falls in the southern mountains, Hensley Settlement comes on stage for a shooting star spectacle. The star is a meteor high upon Brush Mountain. It shines an opportunity to view the night sky and a meteor shower.

CANCELLED



Cumberland Gap's 30+ known caves are perfect habitat for numerous bat species. Learn how park staff uses anabat devices, night vision goggles and echolocation in protecting these "insect eating machines."



7 p.m. each evening; locations to be determined. The September 19 program will be in an area accessible to visitors of all walking abilities.

Superintendent Sula Jacobs and park staff will again be on hand connecting with park neighbors, friends and visitors. Tell us what you've loved about the year and what you would love to see next year. And what's really cool - this informal setting gives park staff an opportunity to really know you!



Visitor center 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Every Saturday in October
Pinnacle Overlook Sunrise Splendor

The gate to the Pinnacle Overlook will be opened at 6 a.m. each Saturday morning. Artists, photographers, sunrise enthusiasts, fall leaf peepers - come witness the morning splendor! **In case of ice, the road will not be opened.**



November 28
National Park Film Fest

The National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday on August 16th, 2016. But we've already begun the birthday bash. Throughout this day, view films featuring but a sampling of the 407 national park units. Join American historian and writer Wallace Stegner in declaring national parks "the best idea we ever had."

Visitor center auditorium 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

December 5
Winter Birding Bonanza!

Don the heavy jacket. With binoculars in hand, we'll roam the Bartlett Park area listening for the white-throated sparrow and its pretty, wavering whistle "*Oh-sweet-canada*." We'll thrill at the sight of the pileated woodpecker adorned with its flaming red crest. And we'll welcome the dark eyed junco, the "snowbird" which has traveled afar from Canada.



Bartlett Park picnic area at 10:00 a.m.

December 12
Holiday of a Lifetime

Each American can unwrap one of the greatest presents ever known to mankind inside of our over 400 national parks. You can choose from priceless American history, prized gifts of nature, the adrenalin rush of adventure, rejuvenating recreation and reawakened peace so many times lost in the hustle of the season. Join us this morning and gaze upon the visitor center Christmas tree trimmed in national park decorations. Make an ornament of your dream national park to hang upon your tree and adorn your heart.

Visitor center at 10:00 a.m.

January 1, 2016
Find Your Adventure: the 127th Rose Parade

We'll stream the Rose Parade during which festive floats will celebrate the 100th anniversary of **YOUR** national parks. Join park staff in the wearing of green and gray proud!

Visitor center auditorium; time to be announced.



Saturday Night Campfires

May, June and July programs begin at 8:00 p.m.

August programs begin at 7:00 p.m.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater, located at the end of loop C where parking is available.

In case of rain, programs will be held in the park visitor center auditorium. Please note July 4th program on the visitor center grounds.

May 23

“Brushfire”

This eastern Kentucky group, together since 1977, is as hot as a brushfire as they perform traditional and modern bluegrass. Banjo, guitar, fiddle and bass will all be featured.

May 30

The Earth Laughs in Flowers

From early spring through late fall, a kaleidoscope of colors can be discovered in the flowers of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Renowned photographer Harold Jerrell shares their beauty.

June 6

Fair Trade on the Frontier

On the 18th century frontier, the almighty dollar wasn't mighty! Visit with a longhunter, portrayed by intern Marcus Jones, to find out about his mighty trade system.

June 13

In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone

We all know the song “Daniel Boone was a man/Yes a big man.” As trailblazer, skilled hunter and trapper, his 86 years were filled with frontier exploits. Come hear renowned author Randell Jones illuminate the facts about one of the most adventurous lives in American history.

June 20

Haunts of Virginia's Blue Ridge Highlands

Joe Tennis grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he began writing while in elementary school - first a book on Elvis Presley, then a comical satire of his fellow fifth grade students. Several of his recent books include fascinating stories about Cumberland National Historical Park, including a ghost in Gap Cave.

June 27

Unique Tri-State Area Crashcourse

With its distinctive mosaic of geology and ecology woven intricately together, textbooks galore would be needed to understand the tri-state area. But under volunteer Steve Roark's hour long tutelage you'll become an expert in how nature shaped the area's human history.

July 4

Festive Fourth Amongst Friends

Bring your lawn chair and join the Friends of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park on the grounds of the park visitor center to view the Middlesboro fireworks.

July 11

Shadow Ridge Sensation

Quick picking and tight harmonies by CF Bailey and Shadow Ridge to traditional hard-driving bluegrass tunes will have you tapping your feet and clapping your hands with this East Tennessee band.

July 18

Colby Chew Reminisces

In 1750, early Virginia explorer Dr. Thomas Walker pushed westward across the Appalachian Mountains crossing through the Cumberland Gap. Fellow traveler Colby Chew, a.k.a. Park Ranger Matthew Graham, reminisces about the five month long adventure including the “13 buffaloes, 8 Elks, 53 Bears, 20 Deers, 4 Wild Geese, about 150 Turkeys besides small game” killed to feed the group.

July 25th

Mystery of the Clawless Paws

Many are haunted by its intrigue. Claims of sightings are frequent, but how many have actually seen this ghost-like creature known to many as the painter? Join Park Ranger Jarrod Dotson in a lively conversation about the “cat of one color,” “the cougar,” “the mountain lion!”

August 1

The Bear Necessities

Did you know you have entered bear habitat here in eastern Kentucky? While visiting bear country, you are responsible for not only your safety but that of the bears. Pine Mountain State Resort Park Naturalist Beth Byrnes will illustrate how you can become a B.E.A.R. - Be an Educated and Responsible Steward. Stick around after the program to compare paw sizes.

August 8

18th Century Pioneer Wedding

Experience the romance, customs, culture and fashion of an 18th century wedding. Park Rangers Brittony Beason and Sharon Griffin will demonstrate how some traditions have been lost with the past while others are still practiced today. And, they just might request assistance from two visitors of marrying age!

August 15

Fifty Years of Job Corps at Cumberland Gap

From 1965 - 1969, hundreds of young men worked at the Cumberland Gap Job Corps Center, building the infrastructure of the park and restoring Hensley Settlement. Park Historian Martha Wiley celebrates these unsung workers whose impact continues to be felt in the park today.

August 22

The Rest of the Story...

Through stories and songs, Park Naturalist Scott Teodorski highlights obscure tales and interesting tidbits of the “not so famous” chapters of Cumberland Gap history.

August 29

To Herb or Not to Herb

In roaming the southern Appalachian Mountains, park volunteer Steve Roark has become intimately acquainted with medicinal plant identification, preparation and application methods which he shares with all.

September 5

The Wilderness Road in Song

Veteran singer-songwriter Ron Short takes to the stage telling the story of the people who braved the wilderness hardships of harsh weather, sickness, deprivation and Indian attacks. Their bravery opened up the American west and heralded the unfolding creation of American identity.

Additional programs may be added throughout the year.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
91 Bartlett Park Road
Middlesboro, KY 40965
(606) 248-2817, extension 1075

www.nps.gov/cuga

Programs sponsored by the National Park Service, Cumberland Crafts of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, Eastern National and Friends of Cumberland Gap.

www.craftguild.org

www.easternnational.org

www.friendsofcumberlandgap.org

